

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01427 070427Z

21

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6734

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG,UN,US,SN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

REF.: SINGAPORE 978

1. USUN OBSERVATIONS OF SINGAPORE'S INTERESTS AND ACTIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS ARE IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THOSE EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY SINGAPORE(REFTEL). USUN NOTES THAT SINGAPORE'S UN MISSION TENDS TO SEEK POSITIONS IN CONCERT WITH ITS ASEAN PARTNERS. HOWEVER, SINGAPORE IS EVEN LESS LIKELY THAN OTHER ASEANS TO TAKE A STAND ON DIFFICULT POLITICAL QUESTIONS. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, ONE LAUDATORY EXCEPTION WAS SINGAPORE'S PERFORMANCE ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AT THE 30TH UNGA.

2. SINGAPORE'S ANNUAL UN GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH IS FELT HERE TO BE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF SINGAPORE'S GENERAL APPROACH TO BOTH THE UN AND THE GROUP OF 77. THEIR GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT HAS IN THE PAST ALWAYS BEEN A PRAGMATIC NONPOLEMICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD SITUATION WITH THE MAJOR FOCUS ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONCERNS.

3. SINGAPORE'S PERMREP AMBASSADOR KOH IS ACTIVE AND WELL-INFORMED AT THE UN AND IS ALMOST ALWAYS CONSULTED BY THE OTHER ASEAN DELEGATIONS. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01427 070427Z

THAT AMBASSADOR KOH KEEPS HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY WELL INFORMED

ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO SINGAPORE AND IS FULLY RESPONSIVE
TO INSTRUCTION.
SCRANTON

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NNN

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